

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 012713
ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 AID-05 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07
IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-06
OMB-01 AGRE-00 L-03 EB-07 SS-15 /081 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/AND/B:RPACE:AG
APPROVED BY S/NM:SBVANCE
ARA:WLUERS
S/NM:MCHESHES
S/NM:RNICHOLSON

-----192220Z 103078 /64

P R 192050Z JAN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 012713

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT'S MEETING WITH BOLIVIAN MINISTER OF
INTERIOR PEREDA ASBUN

SUMMARY: GENERAL PEREDA MET WITH AMBASSADOR SHELDON VANCE
OF S/NM JANUARY 13 FOR A FRANK DISCUSSION OF OUR CURRENT
PROGRAM OF COOPERATION WITH BOLIVIA IN THE FIELDS OF NAR-
COTICS CONTROL, ENFORCEMENT AND -- POTENTIALLY -- COCA
CROP SUBSTITUTION. THE CONVERSATION REPRESENTS A FURTHER
SIGNIFICANT STEP TOWARD THE ACHIEVEMENT OF MUTUAL UNDER-
STANDING BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS OVER THE MANY COMPLEX
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SUMMARY.

1. GENERAL PEREDA MET WITH AMBASSADOR VANCE AND HIS STAFF,
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ACCOMPANIED BY MR. LOUIS FIELDS (L/SFP), FOR TWO HOURS ON
JANUARY 13 TO DISCUSS THE STATUS OF CURRENT U.S.-BOLIVIAN
BILATERAL PROGRAMS ON NARCOTICS MATTERS. ROBERT PACE,
COUNTRY OFFICER FOR BOLIVIA, SERVED AS GENERAL PEREDA'S
ESCORT - INTERPRETER FOR HIS VISIT TO THE DEPARTMENT.

2. COCA SUBSTITUTION: MARKETS AND PRICES: FOLLOWING

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS BY AMBASSADOR VANCE, GENERAL PEREDA COMMENCED A DISCUSSION OF THE PROBLEM OF COCA CROP SUBSTITUTION, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS THE GREATEST PROBLEM FACING OUR BILATERAL PROGRAMS IN THE NARCOTICS FIELD. NOTING THAT THE FINANCIAL ADVANTAGES ACCRUING TO THE CAMPESINO FROM COCA-PRODUCTION MAKE COCA SUBSTITUTION A MAJOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC ISSUE IN BOLIVIA, PEREDA INDICATED THAT HIS CONCERNS ARE NOT RESTRICTED TO THE SEARCH FOR SUITABLE ALTERNATIVE CROPS. SOME SUCH TYPE OF CROPS, INCLUDING FRUIT, COFFEE AND OTHER PRODUCTS, ALREADY ARE IDENTIFIED. THE KEY ISSUE IS ASSURING AN INT'L MARKET FOR SUCH PRODUCTS, TOGETHER WITH A REASONABLE AND STEADY PRICE LEVEL. RAPID ALTERATIONS IN PRICE, WHICH CAN OCCUR IN SUCH WIDELY VARYING PRODUCTS AS SUGAR, COTTON AND TIN, COULD BRING ABOUT THE COMPLETE FAILURE OF ANY GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED COCA CROP SUBSTITUTION PROGRAM. THE GOB WOULD BE FACED WITH A LOSS OF SUPPORT FROM THE CAMPESINOS AND AN UNSUCCESSFUL NATIONAL POLICY. PEREDA NOTED THAT THE BOLIVIAN CAMPESINO HAS NOT BENEFITTED ECONOMICALLY FROM THE INCREASED DEMAND FOR COCA BY INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS, SINCE THE PROFITS FROM THE TRAFFIC ARE SIPHONED OFF BY MIDDLEMEN AND THE TRAFFICKERS. WHAT IS NEEDED IS AN OVERALL IMPROVEMENT IN THE CAMPESINOS ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL LEVEL, A NEW MENTALITY. IN PART FOR THIS REASON, HE ADDED, THE GOB WILL SHORTLY CREATE BY DECREE A NEW OFFICE DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE CROP SUBSTITUTION EFFORT. THIS WILL NOT BE MERELY ANOTHER BUREAUCRACY, HE STATED, BUT AN EFFECTIVE ACTION-ORIENTED OFFICE. RETURNING TO HIS PREVIOUS THEME OF THE NEED FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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ASSURED MARKETS AND PRICE LEVELS FOR THE NEW CROPS TO REPLACE COCA, PEREDA CONCLUDED BY ASKING IF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE OR ANOTHER USG OFFICE COULD REACH ACCORDS WITH BOLIVIA ASSURING MARKETS AND PRICES FOR THESE CROPS.

3. AMBASSADOR VANCE RESPONDED BY NOTING THAT WE RECOGNIZE THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND MORAL PROBLEMS CREATED FOR BOLIVIA BY THIS PROGRAM. NONETHELESS, OUR ECONOMY IS STRUCTURED IN A WAY WHICH MAKES VERY DIFFICULT ANY AGREEMENT OF THE KIND PROPOSED BY MINISTER PEREDA. INSTEAD, VANCE SUGGESTED, BOLIVIA MIGHT CONSIDER INTEGRATING INTO THE CROP SUBSTITUTION EFFORT PROCESSING PLANTS WITHIN THE COUNTRY - WHICH SHOULD HELP IN THIS REGARD. ALSO OUR STUDIES OF THE DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL MARKETING ENVIRONMENTS WHICH ALREADY FORM PART OF OUR ASSISTANCE PROPOSAL, AND THE USE OF OUTSIDE EXPERTS WITH SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE OF CROP SUBSTITUTION PROGRAMS SHOULD BE CHARGED WITH SEEKING WAYS TO ASSURE MARKETS. IN ADDITION, PRIVATE

SECTOR FIRMS SUCH AS THE FOOD MACHINERY CORPORATION, WHICH HAVE OFFERED THEIR SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE AND INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS, COULD PROVIDE TECHNOLOGY, KNOW-HOW AND MARKETING ADVICE TO BOLIVIA. MINISTER PEREDA AGREED THAT CONTACT

WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR OFFERS GREATER POSSIBILITIES FOR CREATING A MODERN AGRO-INDUSTRIAL SECTOR IN BOLIVIA THAN WOULD STATE-TO-STATE COMMERCIAL ACCORDS. STATING THAT HE WAS THINKING ALOUD, PEREDA SUGGESTED THAT AN IDEAL SOLUTION WOULD BE THE FORMATION OF JOINT VENTURES BETWEEN U.S. AND BOLIVIAN FIRMS TO ESTABLISH CANNING, PROCESSING OR BOTTLING PLANTS FOR THE TYPES OF PRODUCTS EMERGING FROM ANY FUTURE COCA SUBSTITUTION PROGRAM. IN THIS REGARD, PEREDA ALSO MENTIONED THAT THE GOB IS IN TOUCH WITH THE CHAMBERS OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE IN BOLIVIA, TO ENLIST THE SUPPORT OF BOLIVIAN PRIVATE CAPITAL TO FINANCE THE INDUSTRIALIZATION OF VARIOUS AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES. CONFIDENTIAL

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4. ATTITUDE OF CAMPESINOS: AMBASSADOR VANCE QUESTIONED PEREDA CONCERNING REPORTS OF CAMPESINO RESISTANCE TO A POSSIBLE COCA CROP SUBSTITUTION EFFORT, REFERRING SPECIFICALLY TO A RECENT NEWSPAPER AD PUBLISHED BY A CAMPESINO GROUP. PEREDA RESPONDED BY NOTING THAT ALL CAMPESINOS ARE BY NATURE SKEPTICAL AND ONLY BELIEVE IN WHAT THEY CAN SEE. BUT FROM HIS PERSONAL MEETINGS WITH THEM, PEREDA SAID HE BELIEVES THEIR COOPERATION CAN BE ACHIEVED, PROVIDED MACHINERY, IRRIGATION, COOPERATIVES, PILOT PROJECTS AND OTHER FORMS OF ASSISTANCE CAN BE PROVIDED THE CAMPESINOS.

5. PLANNED GOB ACTIONS: AFTER EXPLAINING THE ECONOMIC AND TOPOGRAPHICAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE YUNGAS AND CHAPARE REGIONS OF BOLIVIA, PEREDA STATED THAT THE GOB HAS OPENED A REGISTER FOR ALL COCA PRODUCERS. IN ADDITION, AIR PHOTOGRAPHY EFFORTS TO MAP THE COCA GROWING AREAS ARE UNDERWAY. WHEN THESE TWO PROGRAMS ARE COMPLETED, THE GOB WILL THEN BE ABLE TO DECLARE ALL UNREGISTERED PLOTS

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COOPERATION WITH PERU: AMBASSADOR VANCE INFORMED
PEREDA THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN APPROACHED BY
PERU ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF INITIATING PROGRAMS SIMILAR
TO THOSE BEGUN IN BOLIVIA. HE ASKED THE MINISTER'S VIEW
AS TO THE APPROPRIATENESS OF SHARING INFORMATION ON OUR
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7. U.S. PRISONERS IN BOLIVIA: AMBASSADOR VANCE NOTED
THAT WE ARE ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT THE STATUS OF U.S.
CITIZEN PRISONERS IN BOLIVIAN JAILS. WHILE STATING THAT
HE WOULD BE THE LAST TO REQUEST CLEMENCY FOR REAL
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VANCE MENTIONED THE POTENTIAL DOMESTIC CRITICISM ARISING
OUT OF THE PRISONER ISSUE. HE ASKED THE MINISTER IF THE
GOB COULD EXAMINE THE CASES WITH A VIEW TO EXPULSION OR
PARDON IN THOSE CASES INVOLVING LESSER OFFENSES. PEREDA
RESPONDED THAT HE HAD SPOKEN WITH AMBASSADOR STEDMAN ON
THIS PROBLEM AT VARIOUS TIMES. NOTING THAT MANY PRISONERS
HAD BEEN PROCESSED THROUGH THE COURT SYSTEM, BUT WERE
AWAITING THE REVISED LAW OF DECEMBER 1976, TO LIGHTEN
THE POTENTIAL SENTENCES THEY MIGHT RECEIVE, HE STATED
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EVALUATION IN THESE CASES.
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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-01 /005 R

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DRAFTED BY:IO:HDC:JJBUCZACKI
APPROVED BY:IO:HDC:RFANDREW
S:NM:SBVANCE (PHONE)
-----221201Z 010597 /22

R 220155Z JAN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO USMISSION GENEVA 0000

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 012713

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM SECSTATE WASHDC DATED JANUARY 19,
1977 SENT LA PAZ INFO LIMA IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 012713

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3555618
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT'S MEETING WITH BOLIVIAN MINISTER OF INTERIOR PEREDA ASBUN SUMMARY: GENERAL PEREDA MET WITH AMBASSADOR SHELTON
TAGS: SNAR, BL, US, (ASBUN, PEREDA), (VANCE, SHELTON)
To: LA PAZ
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7b0508d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009